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COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SESSION, 1119

Monday, *the* *2nd August 1943* / *17th Karkadagam 1118*

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at half past eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (A.F.W. D ESQ., C.I.E., I.C.S.) in the Chair.

Messrs. Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait, L. M. Pylee, K. T. Achyutan, T. P. Poulose and Walmesley were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

54. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state whether Government propose to constitute an Economic Development Board and if so will the Government announce the proposed personnel?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The question is under the consideration of the Government.

INJURY TO FOOD CROPS BY CATTLE AND BIRDS

55. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government are aware that year after year great injury is done to food crops by cattle and domestic birds;

(*b*) whether Government will devise rules for making the owners of cattle and domestic birds fully responsible for preventing them from damaging other peoples' crops and by making derelictions cognisable offences, by giving the police power to seize all stray and unattended cattle and domestic birds and by giving village courts power to decide all cases for compensation for destruction of crops by domestic animals and birds?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* (*a*) Yes, Government are aware that some damage is done to food crops by cattle and occasionally in some parts by domestic birds.

(2) The matter has already engaged the attention of Government. Section 26 of the Cattle Trespass Act has been extended so as to make it applicable to all kinds of cattle and the penalty leviable has been enhanced to Rs. 50. The question of increasing the number of cattle pounds to secure a more efficient working of the Act is also under consideration of Government.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to note that fencing materials have decreased tremendously in the Cochin, bamboo, thorns, etc.?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Foresis):* My impression is that it has not decreased.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Has the price of fencing materials gone up tremendously high?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Not tremendously. But it has increased.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to note that on account of the increase in the cost of barbed wiring which is being stolen away it is impossible to prevent these from damaging the crops?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Foresis):* I may be permitted to explain Sir, that I only referred to the ordinary forest materials for fencing. I did not refer to barbed wire fencing.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is the price of cadjans?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* In these parts, it is 14 annas per bundle.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What was the price some six months back?